



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: May 2, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution adding APNs 5571-026-007 and 5571-025-042, adjacent to Runyon Canyon Park, to the Final Engineer's Report and authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funds to acquire said parcels, Hollywood.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution adding APNs 5571-026-007 and 5571-025-042, adjacent to Runyon Canyon Park, to the Final Engineer's Report and authorizing the use of \$200,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funds to acquire said parcels.

Background: As shown on the attached aerial photographs, the subject parcels are located along the northern boundary of Runyon Canyon Park and in close proximity to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Trebek Open Space in Nicols Canyon. The properties include an important hiking trail that extends into City of Los Angeles-owned Runyon Canyon Park in two places. The property also contains important viewshed for the park and the Curson Canyon watershed.

A large house has been under construction in phases on APN 5571-026-007 (4.29 acres) since the mid-1990s. Both properties are involved in a bankruptcy proceeding that is too complex to address in this report. The City of Los Angeles, via the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District Office, is spearheading the acquisition of the property. The City has requested that the MRCA contribute some Area D funds to the purchase. The proposed acquisition area would exclude the house and some of the surrounding land. One of the attached figures shows the excluded house and lot area as "Parcel B". The acquisition would have to include an adequate trail easement through or around Parcel B. The larger parcel (APN 5571-025-042) is 17.04 acres.

Development of the property would result in unavoidable significant adverse visual impacts to the Runyon Canyon Park. The timing of the bankruptcy proceedings

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necessitates rapid action by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Governing Board in order for the City to make a legitimate offer. The District No. 1 Citizens Oversight Committee considered this item at its April 24, 2007 meeting. Area D funds are below the \$450,000 level and staff is recommending that \$200,000 be slated towards this important effort.

The property would be owned and managed by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks.